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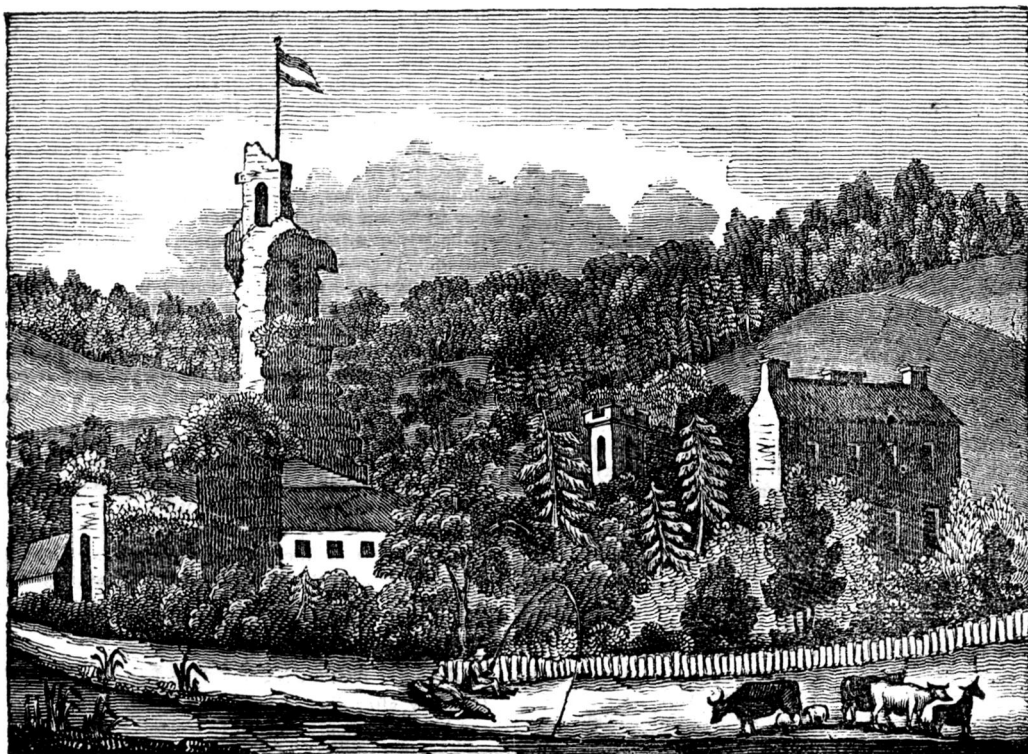
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MACOLLOP CASTLE, COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

Situated on the banks of Blackwater river, on the boundary of the county of Waterford, and midway between the towns of Fermoy and Lismore, a distance of about ten miles, stands the ancient ruin of Macollop castle, consisting of a large round tower, with several smaller square ones flanking its intermediate base; and with the several adjacent improvements, has at present a very picturesque appearance when viewed in almost any direction, but particularly across the river, from the spot where it is said Cromwell, in the year 1640, with an ill directed cannon shot, reduced it to its present dilapidated state. The situation of the house which is plain and rather low, seems as if designed to give the castle the most advantageous appearance, while the church, which fills up the chasm in the centre, with a well planted hill screening the more distant mountains of Clogheen and Ariglin, completes one of the prettiest landscapes which imagination can convey to the mind; the lawn and adjacent low grounds are judiciously planted with well grown timber, and the river, which here enters the county of Waterford, and winds almost under the castle, adds much to the beauty of the scene. A neat timber bridge, subject to a small toll, has, for public convenience, been erected a little to the west of Macollop-house, by the spirited resident owner, F. Drew, Esq. A little further up the river may be seen, fast falling to decay, the perforated walls, and high pointed gables of an extensive mansion on the Waterpark estate.

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Following the course of the river, the next place almost adjoining Macollop, is Ballyduff, a village, like almost all those in the south of Ireland, worthy of remark for nothing more than a new chapel, three or four policemen, and three or four times that number of public houses, the remaining population forming a vast contrast to the many princely rural residences at either side of the river. A little further on is Glenbeg, the seat of G. B. Jackson, Esq.; a place for which nature has done much and art but little. Overhanging the river is a lovely beech walk, perhaps not to be equalled in the kingdom for situation and growth of timber. A very pretty cavern was a few years past discovered on part of the demesne; several curious dilapidated stones and other surprising natural curiosities have been found, but its extent has not as yet been perfectly ascertained; almost opposite Glenbeg is Flower Hill, the prettiest and most enviable situation I know of on the river; the entrance at the avenue is truly neat, and terminates with the house, built in the cottage style; the lands, which are neatly planted and most economically arranged, speak much for the taste of the owner, B. Drew Esq. It is celebrated as a great cider country, and, in my opinion, might vie with that of Devon or Cornwall. Adjoining Flower Hill is the natural Waterfall of Glengore, and on the opposite bank of the river is Glencairn Abbey admirably situated.

E. H.